

## WIPP Quick Facts (As of 9-19-07)

**6,062**

Shipments received since opening

**50,519**

Cubic meters of waste disposed

**93,256**

Containers disposed in the underground

Right: James Hedin and his wife, Kathy, were in Atlanta, GA to accept his award.

## Hedin honored as Legend in Energy



A lot of people have bright ideas, but James Hedin's are also energy efficient. Hedin is WTS' Energy Engineer and he's well known for his efforts to maximize energy efficiency at WIPP and throughout the DOE complex. But we're not the only ones to take notice.

The Association of Energy Engineers (AEE) recently granted the "Legends in Energy" mark of distinction to Hedin, who is a life member. The professional society made the award at the 30th Anniversary of the World Energy Engineering Congress in Atlanta, Georgia.

"James is very active in the community and the company on energy conservation and awareness," said Donna Busche, WTS manager of engineering and chief nuclear engineer. "I could not think of a more deserving individual to receive this national recognition."

Hedin was instrumental in the development of the high-bay lighting system used in the CH waste handling bay. The system used fluorescent technology to improve the lighting, while saving energy and money.

In 1997, the Federal Energy Management Program and the DOE Albuquerque Operations Office honored Hedin for his energy-saving initiatives at WIPP by naming him an energy champion and Energy Manager of the Year.

AEE is a nonprofit professional society of 8,500 members in 77 countries. Its mission is to promote the scientific and educational interests of those engaged in the energy industry and to foster action for sustainable development.

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**Say cheese!**



Robert Duran's daughter, Ceriah, was all smiles at the WTS Family Picnic. Thanks to the committee members for putting on a great event for employees and their families.

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## WIPP surpasses 50 RH shipments

"What can I say? Fifty is a great accomplishment," said Farok Sharif, WTS president and general manager. Last week the 50th shipment of remote-handled (RH-TRU) waste was safely processed and disposed at WIPP. "Congratulations to the WIPP and Idaho teams for making 50 a reality. A special thanks goes to the RH team, they're simply the best," added Sharif. All 50 RH shipments originated from Idaho National Laboratory.

Not only did WIPP hit 50 RH shipments disposed last week, but 51, 52 and 53. "It was just a stellar week," said WTS Operations Manager Scott Anderson. WIPP was initially scheduled to receive the big 50 in August, but the milestone was delayed by the retrieval project, making last week's success all the sweeter.

WIPP received its first shipment of RH-TRU waste in January 2007. At the time only one RH crew was trained and certified to offload and process RH canisters for underground disposal. With increased RH shipping rates, a second RH crew is now in training. Although new to RH waste handling, most trainees are experienced contact-handled TRU waste technicians.

Throughout the project life-cycle, WIPP will dispose approximately 7,080 cubic meters of RH waste, constituting about four percent of the total volume of waste to be disposed in the repository. WIPP averages 26 TRU waste shipments each week. In late August, the 6000th waste shipment rolled through the WIPP gate.

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## Here, kitty, kitty ...



On August 17, a mountain lion was observed roaming inside the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project at Idaho National Laboratory. Employees were directed to stay indoors, as it walked around outside operational buildings. Idaho Fish and Game personnel tranquilized the mountain lion and transported it out of the area.

### Tanner achieves ASNT certification



Steve Tanner, WTS Quality Assurance, has recently attained Level III certification in Liquid Penetrant Testing from the American Society for Nondestructive Testing (ASNT). To attain this certification, individuals must successfully complete a four-hour examination in basic nondestructive testing (NDT) practices, followed by a two-hour comprehensive examination (90 questions) in the specific method.

The NDT basic examination is a written examination of knowledge of materials science and processes technology, NDT personnel qualification and certification, and the basic principles of NDT methods. The NDT method examination is a written examination on the principles, theory, techniques, and applications within a NDT specific method.

Tanner also holds an ASNT Level III certification in Magnetic Particle Testing and is currently designated as the WIPP Nondestructive Examination (NDE) Level III.

ASNT inaugurated its NDT Level III Program in 1976 with certification offerings in five NDT methods. Over the years, ASNT has certified over 5,000 individuals from more than 50 countries in ASNT NDT Level III and has expanded the certification program to include 11 NDT methods.

ASNT is the single largest certifying body of Level III personnel today and the ASNT NDT Level III certificate remains the most respected and widely accepted NDT certification throughout the world.

## New area code to impact WIPP

*I'm sorry, your call cannot be completed as dialed. Please check the number and try again.*

We've all heard that message before and with the upcoming change to New Mexico's area code we may hear it a lot more. But hopefully, we can minimize the impact for those who have business with WIPP.

On October 7, the state of New Mexico will be split into two area codes. The northwest region of the state will retain the 505 area code, while the remainder of the state, including WIPP, will switch to the new 575 area code. For the next year, callers will be able to use either area code and still reach their intended number. However, on October 5, 2008, use of the new area code will become mandatory.



So what can we do to make the transition for WIPP a smooth one? Here are some pointers that are sure to keep the phones ringing.

### Start now

Begin using the new 575 area code as soon as October 7 arrives. This way you and the people that you interact with will have a year to become accustomed to the change before it becomes mandatory.

### Notify everyone you work with regularly, including vendors

Locals are sure to know about the change, but many of our contacts and vendors that are outside the state of New Mexico have no reason to know. Be sure to let them know as soon as possible, so they can update their records.

### Check printed materials

Change your area code on all printed materials, including business cards, stationary, signs and advertisements.

### Check equipment

Make sure that telephone equipment and fax machines that use the area code are programmed to work correctly with the new area code.

For a map of New Mexico's new two-area-code setup or for more information about the split, visit Qwest online at

[www.Qwest.com/announcements/NewMexicoAreaCodeSplit](http://www.Qwest.com/announcements/NewMexicoAreaCodeSplit).

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### Interested in WIPP?

If you would like to be notified when TRU TeamWorks is updated with the latest information about WIPP, send an e-mail message to [TRUTeamWorks@wipp.ws](mailto:TRUTeamWorks@wipp.ws).

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## Watch out for West Nile virus

With the threat of infection with the West Nile virus, mosquitoes that were once just considered a nuisance now have the potential to be deadly. The New Mexico Department of Health announced earlier this month that an 80-year-old man from Doña Ana County has died from West Nile virus infection. Two more individuals have tested positive for West Nile virus as well. The state has had a total of 21 confirmed human cases of West Nile so far this year.

Common West Nile symptoms are fever, nausea, headache and muscle aches. Symptoms may last from a few days to a few weeks. About four out of five people who are infected with West Nile virus will not show any symptoms at all. In very rare cases, about one in 150, people infected with West Nile virus will develop severe illness including meningitis or encephalitis.

Severe symptoms may include high fever, severe headache, neck stiffness, muscle weakness, disorientation, tremors and convulsions. If someone has these symptoms, he should see his health care provider. People older than 50 are at higher risk for severe illness from West Nile virus.

Here are some tips to avoid West Nile infection:

- ⌘ Use insect repellent on exposed skin when you go outdoors. Products containing DEET or Picaridin can provide long-lasting protection. Use products with no more than 35 percent DEET for adults and follow the directions on the label for children from ages 2-12. Natural products containing soybean oil or oil of lemon eucalyptus need to be applied more often.
- ⌘ When weather permits, wear loose-fitting, long-sleeved shirts, long pants and socks. Mosquitoes can bite through thin clothing, so use an EPA-registered repellent on your clothing.
- ⌘ The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for mosquitoes. Take extra care to use repellent and protective clothing, or consider avoiding outdoor activities during these times.
- ⌘ Keep windows and doors closed if not screened. If you leave your house doors or windows open, make sure they have screens that fit tightly and have no holes.
- ⌘ Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Empty water from containers such as old tires, flowerpots and trash receptacles. Circulate water in swimming pools, and change water regularly in birdbaths and pet bowls.
- ⌘ Vaccinate your horses against West Nile virus, as well as Western Equine Encephalitis, which is also carried by mosquitoes.
- ⌘ Do not use insect repellents intended for humans on cats and dogs. So far, both have been resistant to the virus.

For more information about West Nile, call 827-0006 or look up the NM Department of Health's website: [www.health.state.nm.us/epi/wnv.html](http://www.health.state.nm.us/epi/wnv.html).

**Information source: New Mexico Department of Health**

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The U.S. Department of Energy  
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

Please send comments and/or  
suggestions to: [TRU TeamWorks](mailto:TRUTeamWorks@wipp.ws)

